

## **MEDICAL SPECIALIST**

**August 29, 2003**

### **a. Position Description**

The Medical Specialist is responsible for performing the medical function of the Task Force incident operation. The Medical Specialist reports directly to the Medical Team Manager.

The Medical Specialist is responsible for:

- The general health considerations of and delivery of medical care to all Task Force personnel, victims, and search dogs, while under the supervision of the Medical Team Manager, during disaster events;
- Implementing the medical action plans specified by the Medical Team Manager;
- Adhering to all safety procedures;
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment; and
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.

### **b. Position Requirements and Criteria:**

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Medical Specialists in the DHS/FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing medical care required by the Task Force in the urban disaster environment. The requirements and criteria for the position are identified in the following categories:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Abilities.

#### Knowledge:

The Medical Specialist must:

- Be a Paramedic or equivalent – Should be certified in Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS), ACLS, and PALS regimens (or equivalent). Must be actively practicing pre-hospital care on a regular basis. This is specifically intended to exclude individuals with certifications but no regular experience to ensure acceptable mechanical skill levels during mission operations;

OR

Be a Nurse – registered nurse certified within an accredited organization or municipality and meeting the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic Standards or State certification requirements and actively practicing advanced pre-hospital life support. Should be certified in BTLS, ACLS, and PALS regimens (or equivalent). These individuals must possess the immobilization,

extrication, vascular access, and airway management skills of a National Registry Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic. This is specifically intended to exclude nurses with certifications but no regular experience to ensure acceptable mechanical skill levels during mission operations;

- Have a knowledge and understanding of medical conditions common to US&R incidents;
- Have an understanding of the broad range of disaster organizations;
- Have a working knowledge of general rescue operations at structural collapse sites, landslides, hurricanes, and other such disasters; and
- Understand pre-established local, municipal or state protocols and guidelines for which the Medical Specialist has been trained and certified by the Task Force Medical Team Manager. This should be consistent with the sponsoring jurisdiction's standard of care and scope of practice.

#### Skills:

The Medical Specialist must:

- Be proficient in treating medical conditions common to US&R incidents, such as lacerations, fractures, shock, crush injury and crush syndrome, burns, penetrating and blunt trauma, head injuries, respiratory compromise, hyper/hypothermia, and infections and in treating common medical emergencies.

#### Abilities:

The Medical Specialist must:

- Be able to improvise, share information, resolve conflicts and solve problems;
- Have the ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing; and
- Be able to work well with other personnel, specialized equipment, and support resources during a disaster situation.

#### **c. Operational Checklist**

The purpose of the checklist is to define the duties and responsibilities of the Medical Specialist during a mission assignment. The list is intended to be a general summary of actions. It should be understood that:

- Some required actions may not be listed, but must be identified and assumed by this position;
- Some actions may be the primary responsibility of another Task Force position, but may require assistance and coordination from this position; and

- The actions are listed in a general chronological order, but may require deviation.

**(1) Upon Activation/At Task Force Assembly Point:**

- Assist in the review of all Responder Information Sheets and the evaluation of canines;
- Receive and sign for a paramedic medical pack or assigned medical equipment; and
- Assist with the medical check-in procedures for deploying Task Force personnel.

**(2) At Point Of Departure:**

- Ensure the security and accountability of controlled drugs with the Medical Team Manager; and
- Initiate appropriate medical care to any team member or victim, and document same.

**(3) In Transit:**

- Evaluate and monitor Task Force environmental, hydration, health, stress, and safety issues; and
- Initiate appropriate medical care to any team member or victim, and document same.

**(4) Arrival at Mobilization Center:**

- Monitor Task Force personnel for signs of fatigue, dehydration, stress, or other health problems; and
- Initiate appropriate medical care to any team member or victim, and document same.

**(5) On-Site Operations:**

- Under the direction of the Medical Team Manager, assist in the treatment, extrication, and transfer of injured members and victims to local emergency medical services or available support networks.

**(6) Reassignment/Demobilization:**

- Ensure that all controlled substances are accounted for and secured. Notify the Medical Team Manager of their status and any discrepancies;
- Monitor Task Force personnel for the development of incident stress;
- Notify the assigned supervisor of the losses or potential maintenance requirements of any assigned tools and equipment; and
- Initiate appropriate medical care to any team member or victim, and document same.